

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----019683 141309Z /43

O P 141245Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY HELSINKI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2917
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ROME PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L HELSINKI 2224

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EG, FI, IT, MA, MX, CE, ICJ
SUBJECT: CANDIDACIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

REF: (A) STATE 173735 (NOTAL), (B) USUN 01821, (C) GENEVA 10704,

1. JUDGE EERO MANNER IS A DISTINGUISHED FINNISH JURIST WITH EXTENSIVE EXPERIENCE IN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL MATTERS. HE IS HIGHLY RESPECTED IN FINLAND AS AN INTELLECTUALLY HONEST AND PRINCIPLED MAN. WE AGREE WITH THE JUDGMENT, EXPRESSED IN REFTEL C, THAT MANNER IS A MAN OF INTEGRITY WHO CAN BE EXPECTED TO RESIST ANY POLITICAL PRESSURES THAT MIGHT BE PLACED UPON HIM FROM THE USSR, TO THE EXTENT THAT SUCH PRESSURES ARE RELEVANT IN THE ICJ CONTEXT.

2. IN SHORT, JUDGE MANNER IS A HIGHLY QUALIFIED CANDIDATE, AS OUR USUN MISSION OBSERVED IN REFTEL B. MOREOVER, IT IS IMPORTANT TO NOTE THAT MANNER IS THE AGREED
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CANDIDATE OF THE FIVE NORDIC COUNTRIES WHICH, AS THE FINNS AND OTHER NORDICS POINT OUT, HAVE NOT BEEN REPRESENTED ON THE ICJ BENCH SINCE THE LOSS OF THE "NORDIC SEAT" THREE YEARS AGO.

3. THIS EMBASSY, THE FOREGOING NOTWITHSTANDING, IS NOT IN A POSITION TO EVALUATE THE QUALIFICATIONS OF

JUDGE MANNER VIS-A-VIS OTHER CANDIDATES. WE WILL
LEAVE IT TO THOSE WHO HAVE DEALT WITH JUDGE MANNER
AND THE OTHER CANDIDATES IN INTERNATIONAL LEGAL FORA
TO COMPARE THEIR RELATIVE QUALIFICATIONS. WE
WOULD SIMPLY POINT OUT THAT JUDGE MANNER'S OWN
QUALIFICATIONS ARE OUTSTANDING AND THAT WE FIND THE
ARGUMENT FOR NORDIC REPRESENTATION PERSUASIVE. WE
URGE THAT THESE FACTORS BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION
AS THE USG DETERMINES ITS POSITION ON THIS ISSURE.
RIDGWAY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NOMINATION, COURTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 20 Mar 2014
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978HELSIN02224
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780289-0131
Format: TEL
From: HELSINKI
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780760/aaaabyjt.tel
Line Count: 72
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: cb109e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 78 STATE 173735, 78 USUN NEW YORK 1821, 78 GENEVA 10704
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 04 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2009484
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CANDIDACIES FOR INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE
TAGS: PORG, EG, FI, IT, MA, MX, CE, ICJ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/cb109e73-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014